Some additional notes from my experience in using GhostView to add a preview. I am running IDL on a Sun Ultra, Solaris 2.7 and running Ghostview and Office 97 on an NT 4.0.

You can control the resolution of the preview: under Media: Display Settings, set Resolution. I have found that 150 (dpi) provides a preview image that displays quit well on screen, e.g. in a Powerpoint presentation.

Ghostview offers the following preview format options:
    interchange: preview does not display
    tiff 4: preview in black and white only,
    tiff 6: preview in color
    tiff 6 packbits: preview in color
    Windows metafile: preview in color

The size of the epsi file may be many times that of the original ps file. However, when inserted into a Word97 or Powerpoint document, the increase in the size of the file is quite modest (apparently the preview is compressed upon insertion.)

Here are the relative sizes for a simple line plot in color:
-rw-r--r--   1 rs   7167 Nov 19 1999 fig.ps
-rw-rw-rw-   1 rs   202213 Nov 18 1999 fig_inter.epsi
-rw-rw-rw-   1 rs   752345 Nov 17 1999 fig_meta.epsi
-rw-rw-rw-   1 rs   104847 Nov 17 1999 fig_tiff4.epsi
-rw-rw-rw-   1 rs   740973 Nov 17 1999 fig_tiff6.epsi
-rw-rw-rw-   1 rs   52336 Nov 17 1999 fig_tiff6_pack.epsi

Be aware that for all except the interchange preview (which is worthless anyway), Ghostview adds some binary data at the beginning of the file so that it can no longer be displayed by ghostscript or be sent to a postscript printer. Also, the previews are binary.

In article <3831AEC1.3BBA2762@ssec.wisc.edu>,
  Liam Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:
> David Fanning wrote:
>> There has been some discussion on this newsgroup lately
>> of how to produce a decent PostScript preview image, so
>> you could import the image into a Word or Powerpoint
>> document and see something reasonable. I've written
>> an article on this topic that might shed some light on
>> the subject, at least for those of you working on Windows

>> machines. (Ninety percent of you, if my recent figures from
>> Microsoft are any indication. :-)
>>
>> http://www.dfanning.com/tips/postscript_preview.html
>
> David, thanks for the nice write up.
>
>> The first method is IDL's own, using the Preview keyword.
>> The second involves using Ghostview, as suggested on this
>> newsgroup by Liam Gumley, and the third method uses Adobe
>> Acrobat and was suggested to me by Larry Ashim.
>> I'll let you decide which method you prefer. :-)
>
> I've found GSView to be an indispensable tool for checking that my IDL
> Postscript output really looks the way I intended it to look, without
> having to print a darn thing. And it adds nice preview images as well!
> Check out
> http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/
>
> Cheers,
> Liam.
>
> --
> Liam E. Gumley
> Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison
> http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley
>

Cheers,
Bill Gallery

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